

ABSTRACT

A single use self-contained surgical knife provides twist stability and lateral
5 support for the knife blade. Turning a knurled ring member within the containment casing
retracts the knife blade into the containment casing. Retraction of the blade is permanent;
once retracted, subsequent usage of the knife blade is prevented. A substantial safety margin
is provided, in that injuries occasioned by the retraction process are virtually eliminated. The
knife blade remains forever in the retracted condition, preventing spread of blood borne
10 infections such as AIDS, Hepatitis and the like, that might otherwise result from subsequent
usage of the knife blade.

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